IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier

versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus for performing user

authentication processing in print processing, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a job combination unit for combining a plurality of print jobs into a

single combined print job; ~~and~~

a request unit for issuing a request, including an input user ID, to an

authentication server for ~~getting a~~ obtaining permission to print the single combined print

job combined by said job combination unit[[,]]; and

~~wherein if the authentication request succeeds~~ a transmission control

unit in which a printer driver controls a transmission process so that, when permission is

obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job

is transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication

server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not transmitted to the

printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication

server is transmitted to a job accounting application.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,

~~characterized by~~ further comprising a counting unit for counting a print amount including

[the] a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmitting

information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

       3.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~

          wherein the authentication server and the print control apparatus are

connected via a communication network, and

          the communication network is connected to a plurality of printers.

       4.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the authentication server is [provided by a] included in the

printer.

       5.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the print control apparatus includes a host computer.

       6.   (Currently Amended) A print control method of performing user

authentication processing in print processing, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

          [the] a job combination step of combining a plurality of print jobs

into a single combined print job; ~~and~~

[the] an authentication request step of issuing an authentication

request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to

print the single print job combined in the job combination step[[,]]; and

~~wherein if the authentication request succeeds~~ a transmission control

step in which a printer driver controls a transmission process so that, when permission is

obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job

is transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication

server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not transmitted to the

printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication

server is transmitted to a job accounting application.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6,

~~characterized by~~ further comprising [the] a counting step of counting a print amount

including [the] a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmitting

information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the authentication server is included in [a] the printer.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which

stores a computer program for performing user authentication processing in print

processing, ~~characterized by~~ including:

a code of [the] a job combination step of combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job; and

a code of [the] an authentication request step of issuing an authentication request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single combined print job combined in the job combination step[[,]]; and

wherein if the authentication request succeeds a code of a transmission control step in which a printer driver controls a transmission process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not transmitted to the printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application.

10.   (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 9, characterized by further comprising a code of [the] a counting step of counting a print amount including [the] a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmitting information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

11.   (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 9, characterized in that wherein the authentication server is [provided by a] included in the printer.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium which, when executed, performs a method for performing user authentication processing in print processing, characterized by including the program comprising:

a code of [the] an job combination step of combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job; and

a code of [the] an authentication request step of issuing an authentication request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single print job combined in the job combination step[[,]]; and

wherein if the authentication request succeeds a code of a transmission control step in which a printer driver controls a transmission process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not transmitted to the printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application.

13.   (Currently Amended) A print system for performing user authentication processing in print processing, characterized by comprising:

a print control apparatus having a job combination unit for combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job, an authentication request unit for issuing an authentication request, including an input user ID, to an

authentication server for <u>obtaining permission to print</u> the single <u>combined</u> print job

combined by the job combination unit, and a transmission <u>control</u> unit ~~if the authentication~~

~~request succeeds~~ <u>in which a printer driver controls a transmission process so that, when</u>

<u>permission is obtained from the authentication server,</u> print data based <u>upon</u> the <u>single</u>

combined print job is transmitted <u>to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the</u>

<u>authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not</u>

<u>transmitted to the printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the</u>

<u>authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application</u>; and

[an] <u>wherein the</u> authentication server <u>is</u> connected to said print

control apparatus.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13,

~~characterized in that~~

~~the system~~ further ~~comprises~~ <u>comprising</u> a counting server connected

to said print control apparatus, and

said print control apparatus counts a print amount including [the] <u>a</u>

number of prints to be printed by the combined print job<u>,</u> and transmits information about

the counted print amount to the counting server.

15.   (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13,

~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> said authentication server is [provided by] <u>included in</u> one of

printers connected to said print control apparatus.

16.- 44. (Canceled)

45.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printer driver controls the transmission process so as to generate a print command using the combined print job held in a storage unit and transmits the print command to the printer.

46.   (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein, in said transmission control step, the printer driver controls the transmission process so as to generate a print command using the combined print job held in a storage unit and transmits the print command to the printer.